

graduates on their enlistment in the United States Navy:

Gabriel Berrios, Owen Buzan, Kim Alexandria, Holly Speacht, and Sara Vasquez.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the courage and dedication of these graduates and in assuring them and their families that the full support and resources of the U.S. Congress and the American people will be behind them on every step of their journey in defense of our nation's freedom.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE POMPEO

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 424 I was unable to cast my vote in person due to a previously scheduled engagement. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

IRAN NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Secretary of State John Kerry and partners from the P5+1 will meet in Vienna today to continue negotiations with Iran on that nation's nuclear activity. Statements from Iranian leaders such as Ayatollah Khamenei that disparage the United States and Israel remind us of the vital role that Congress has in this process. We must remain vigilant. We must ensure that any agreement holds Iran to the highest standards of transparency and accountability.

The opportunity for the United States to improve our relationship with Iran potentially could lead to greater stability in a region torn apart by war and religious strife. Nevertheless, we must not be naïve. The prospect of peace and stability can be reached only if we are secure that Iran will not threaten its neighbors and the world with nuclear aggression.

Secretary Kerry and his team of negotiators know the gravity of their work. I am confident that they want to see a good deal and will accept nothing less than an agreement that can withstand intense scrutiny. They cannot and should not be rushed into a deal. Nor should they cut corners as the deadline in presenting the details to Congress for a 30-day review approaches.

A good deal means that the international community must be permitted to inspect Iranian military and research installations to ensure that no illicit enrichment takes place. Inspectors must have full and unfettered access to be able to determine whether nuclear infrastructure has been dismantled so that its breakout capacity will be measured in years, not weeks. In addition, Iran must adhere to all U.N. Security Council Resolutions that require detailed explanations of previous nuclear efforts.

Until the U.S. Congress is assured that these measures have been implemented, sanctions must not be eased. The security of the U.S., Israel, and of our allies demands that

we continue to apply pressure on the Ayatollah and his regime to ensure that they keep their word now and into the future.

TRIBUTE TO PAULA BELL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Paula Bell of Des Moines, Iowa, for receiving the 2014 Wells Fargo Volunteer of the Year Award for the Central Iowa Region.

Wells Fargo has been able to create an environment that fully embraces workplace giving. Last year, they set a company record by pledging \$97.7 million to 30,000 nonprofits and schools. Wells Fargo has donated 6.4 million hours of service since 2011 and steps up in times of need, helping both domestically and abroad.

Paula Bell was granted this prestigious award, as well as \$1000 to donate to a nonprofit organization of her choosing, for volunteering 200 of the 111,415 total hours that Wells Fargo team members in the Central Iowa Region logged in 2014. Paula's hard work and dedication to serving others truly embodies our Iowa values.

I applaud her for her commitment to giving back to the community and service to others. I know my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating her for receiving this award. I wish her and her family all the best moving forward.

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL ERIC A. GIVENS, UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the dedicated service of Lieutenant Colonel Eric A. Givens while serving with the Legislative Affairs Division at the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve from May 19, 2014, until March 8, 2015. During that short time, Eric made a lasting and positive impact on the Army Reserve through his efforts to foster and maintain relationships with Congressional members and staff.

As lead legislative liaison for military readiness and operations programs, Eric ensured that Army Reserve Soldiers' interests were clearly communicated to Members of Congress and their staffs as they considered the impacts of pending legislation. Additionally, Eric led efforts to draft, refine, and promote Administration-approved legislative proposals designed to ensure the well-being of Army Reserve Soldiers and to maintain the high-quality force the Nation has come to expect from its Army Reserve.

Ever the professional Soldier, LTC Givens arrived at the Legislative Affairs Division with nearly three decades of Army Reserve service that began with his enlistment in 1985. He re-

ceived his commission as an officer in 1990 and joined the Active Guard and Reserve program in 1995. His years of experience in the field and as a staff officer at the Pentagon made him an invaluable resource to the Legislative Affairs Division, as his well-developed relationships bore fruit on a daily basis.

LTC Givens' presence in the office and on Capitol Hill brought joy to all who worked with him, and he will no doubt take that same spirit with him wherever his Army Reserve career leads. The Army Reserve's Legislative Affairs Division will remember him as a tireless proponent of Army Reserve equities, and as a Soldier who represents the best of what America has to offer.

The 11th Congressional District of Virginia has one of the highest veteran and military populations in the United States. As Representative of this district, it is critical that I receive accurate and timely information so that I can best represent the needs of our service members and ensure that they and their families receive the protections and benefits that they have earned. This would not be possible without the invaluable contributions of men and women like LTC Givens who tirelessly and effectively communicate with our office and advocate for their fellow soldiers.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the residents of the 11th District, I congratulate and thank LTC Givens and his wife, Lisa, for their service to our country and wish them the best for continued success.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF JUDY STUDEBAKER WARREN

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a beloved friend, Judy Studebaker Warren. Judy, of the famous Studebaker automobile family, was a vibrant, caring, and passionate individual. Her love of life and contagious smile had a rippling effect of positivity on everyone around her. Sadly, after an almost two year battle with cancer, Judy passed away on July 5, 2015. It is my privilege to honor her extraordinary life on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

A lifelong Hoosier, Judy grew up in Logansport, Indiana and graduated from Logansport High School. After high school she earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from Indiana University, where she was a proud member of the Pi Beta Phi Sorority and later became an active member of the Indiana University Alumni Association. She also served as President of the Junior League of Indianapolis, an organization she loved that benefitted from her energy and talents. Whether it was planning a fundraising gala for the Junior League or hosting a tailgate at an Indiana University football game, Judy was a gracious and amazing hostess who brought joy to everyone around her.

Judy's love of community and commitment to volunteering extended well beyond the Junior League of Indianapolis. She was the founding member of the Indianapolis Chapter of D.A.R.E. in the Pike Township School System

and created many inaugural events, including ArtSparkle for the Indianapolis Art Center, the Tribute for the Indiana State Museum, and REV to benefit Methodist Health Foundation.

She also had extensive board participation, serving on the boards of the Indianapolis Art Center, Indiana State Museum, Championship Auto Racing Auxiliary, The National Art Museum of Sports, The Oaks Academy, and Ballet Internationale, to name a few. Her other affiliations include the Governor's Residence Commission, St. Margaret's Hospital Guild, American Cancer Society Guild, Presidents Roundtable, Indiana Children's Wish Fund's Ball and Spotlight, and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful. She was cause-oriented and loved a challenge; give her a goal and she was a fundraising machine. But most of all, she always had fun—and made sure everyone else did, too.

Judy was an innovator and the Hoosier community was her beneficiary. She brought so much good to the City of Indianapolis, and her hard work did not go unnoticed. After she completed her Junior League of Indianapolis Presidency Mayor Bart Peterson named June 4, 2003 as Judy Warren Day in the City of Indianapolis. She also received Governor Daniels' Distinguished Hoosier Award in 2006 and Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard's Community Achievement Award in 2010.

Judy was an embodiment of all that is kind and generous. Judy is and always will be an inspiration to me. Her grace, bravery, and spirit will live on through those whose lives she touched. She is survived by her husband, Brick; son, Clay, and his wife Stasha; her mother, Vera; and her beloved grandchildren, Katie and Ethan. She is also survived by her stepson, Ryan, and his wife, Elizabeth; and their children, Elijah Brick (E.B.), Martha Claire and George Taylor Warren. Judy Warren is an example of a great American woman who throughout her lifetime served her family, her friends, and community with passion and love.

H.R. 2999, THE FAIR VA
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce H.R. 2999, the Fair VA Accountability Act, legislation that will bring real accountability to the VA while maintaining constitutional due process protections for civil service employees.

Last year, we were horrified to learn of widespread mismanagement at the VA. We all felt outraged that VA employees whose actions may have harmed veterans remained in their jobs or sat at home for months on paid administrative leave. There have been other bills introduced that seek to bring greater flexibility to the VA to remove problem employees, but I believe that many do this by destroying the bedrock principles of our civil service, limiting due process to an extent that runs counter to the constitutional protections we enjoy. I think these bills have another failing—they likely would result in outcomes far different than their sponsors and proponents intend. By violating the due process rights of our

federal employees, these bills could very well ensure that if followed, VA may never be able to effectively remove bad employees when a court finds them unconstitutional.

The Fair VA Accountability Act increases accountability by allowing VA to immediately suspend without pay any employee whose misconduct poses a direct threat to veterans' health and safety. VA currently has the authority to fire employees with adequate pre-termination notice—usually 30 days. I agree that VA needs to do a better job of utilizing this authority. But the only realistic reason a VA employee should be fired on the spot would be if his or her conduct threatened veterans' health and safety.

I believe my bill provides the proper balance between the needs of the VA and the rights of VA employees. I also believe it provides sufficient due process rights to meet constitutional requirements and provide accused employees with a fair chance to tell their side of the story. Keep in mind that over 30 percent of VA employees are veterans themselves—the largest percentage of veteran employees among civilian agencies. I am proud to promote a policy that protects these employees' constitutional right to due process before losing their federal job.

In addition to the immediate removal provision, my bill increases accountability at the VA by addressing the “revolving door” problem, prohibiting senior VA executives from receiving VA contracts for at least a year after they leave the VA. It also limits the use of paid administrative leave to 14 days, to ensure employees don't continue to draw paychecks while sitting at home for months.

Finally, the Fair VA Accountability Act protects whistleblowers by requiring mandatory back-pay for any employee who proves that dismissal was a result of whistleblower retaliation. My bill also requires the IG to report on the percentage of employees fired who claimed whistleblower protections, and retains existing Title 5 protections for VA employees.

As stated in a letter of support by the American Federation of Government Employees, this language establishes “highly effective mechanisms for increasing VA accountability while preserving the due process rights of front-line employees so that they can still make lifesaving disclosures about patient harm and other mismanagement without the fear of immediate job loss as at-will employees.”

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE OLDE FORGE-SURREY
SQUARE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Olde Forge-Surrey Square on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Located in the heart of Fairfax County and the 11th Congressional District of Virginia, the Olde Forge-Surrey Square subdivision is set in a beautiful location, surrounded by large parks and streams. The residents take great pride in their community and are willing and eager participants in the community's civic association.

The Olde Forge-Surrey Square Civic Association is dedicated to promoting a high quality

of life for all of the residents. There is an active Neighborhood Watch program, which helps to ensure the area remains safe and that neighbors stay connected. The Brandywine Pool is a local gathering place for all, and there are frequent barbecues and other community events. Recently the civic association took on a large project to renovate its playground. Through the generous contributions of the residents, as well as support of the local business community, the civic association was able to raise enough money to qualify for a grant from Fairfax County for a complete playground renovation.

As the former president of my own civic association, I understand that when residents invest their time, care, and energies in their communities, it benefits all. Fairfax County is considered one of the best places in the nation in which to work, live, and raise a family, largely because of the willingness of so many to become actively involved.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Olde Forge-Surrey Square Civic Association on its 50th anniversary and in thanking all of the residents for their tireless efforts and dedication to the community and region.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN REECE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brian Reece of Osceola, Iowa, on receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

This program, administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, recognizes exemplary teachers for their contributions to the teaching and learning of math and science. Each award recipient will be receiving a certificate signed by the President, along with a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation. Each recipient will travel to Washington, D.C. for an awards ceremony at a later date.

Brian has been teaching mathematics for the past 19 years. Nine of those years have been spent at Central Academy, a public high school in Des Moines listed in the top one percent of educational programs by the College Board. He has taught in a number of Iowa school districts, as well as at the Des Moines Area Community College. Brian received his B.A. in Mathematics from Central College in Pella, Iowa, and furthered his mathematics education with a Master's of School Mathematics from Iowa State University.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Iowans like Brian Reece who display dedication and pride in developing Iowa's next generation. I know all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating Brian for receiving this prestigious award and wishing him nothing but success in the future.